

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

CLEARWATER STATE FOREST

STATE OF MONTANA

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**Initial Proposal  
Upper Blackfoot Timber Salvage and Management Project**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Lincoln Field Office is proposing to harvest timber on state owned parcels within.

Section 16 T. 15N., R. 7W, Sections 16 and 19 T. 14N., R 8W. Sections 1, 2, 3, 9 & 16 T. 14N., R 9W.  
Section 16 T. 14N., R 10W. Section 2 T. 13N., R 9W. Section 36 T. 15N., R. 8W.  
Common School Trust

Sections 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 28, and 34, T. 14N., R. 8W. Sections 2, 28, and 34 T. 14N., R 9W.  
Public Buildings Trust

Sections 8, 12 and 22 T 14N., R.8W.  
School for the Deaf and Blind

Section 26 T.14N., R.9W.  
Montana State University

The primary objective of the proposed project is to harvest trees that have been, are currently, or are at risk of being attacked by the mountain pine beetle and western spruce budworm. Additional trees would be harvested to promote desired future conditions described in the State Forest Land Management Plan. Road maintenance and improvement would be performed on existing access roads and some new road construction may be necessary to access portions of proposed harvest units. Noxious weed management, property line surveys, pre-commercial thinning, and tree planting may also occur under the proposed action.

The proposed salvage harvest is in accordance with State Statute 77-5-207. The DNRC's intent is to salvage timber before there is substantial value loss and promote desired future conditions by implementing appropriate silvicultural treatments on all sites. Additionally the proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

The proposal is in the upper Blackfoot River Watershed ranging approximately from Alice Creek downstream to Arrastra Creek.

Due to the scattered nature of state lands in the project vicinity the proposed harvest would take place under various timber sales and permits. The proposal would harvest approximately ten million board feet from approximately 2,600 acres. The proposed action would likely be implemented in the late summer of 2013 and would last for several years.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted. Neighboring landowners will also be asked for their input.

The Montana D.N.R.C. invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by August 15, 2012 to:

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